

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This First Preliminary Amendment is respectfully submitted in connection with this application, which is a continuation of copending U.S. application serial number 09/216,096, for the purpose of prosecuting claims with subject matter that was not allowed in the parent case.

Claim 1 has been amended for consideration, Claims 2-14 have been canceled, and Claim 15 has been added. New Claim 15 is an apparatus claim corresponding to Claim 1.

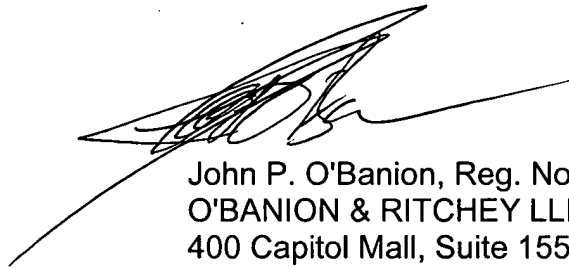
In addition, the Specification has been amended to conform to the amendments made during prosecution of the parent case.

Entry of this First Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested prior to examination on the merits.

Date: _____

4/2/04

Respectfully submitted,



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